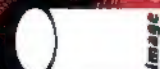


"KEOWN'S ART ALONE MAKES THIS BOOK WELL WORTH THE PRICE OF ADMISSION." - COMIC BOOK RESOURCES

PAUL JENKINS • DALE KEOWN

The DARKNESS



Previously in...

THE DARKNESS

JACKIE ESTACADO IS THE LATEST BEARER OF THE DARKNESS, AN ANCIENT POWER THAT ALLOWS ITS BEARER TO CREATE CONSTRUCTS AND SUMMON OTHERWORLDLY DEMONS LIMITED ONLY BY HIS IMAGINATION. HE'S ALSO THE HEAD OF THE FRANCHETTI CRIME FAMILY, AND HE'S BEEN THROUGH THE WRINGER AS OF LATE.

PITT IS A HUMAN/ALIEN HYBRID CREATED BY THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL RACE KNOWN AS THE CREED. PITT WAS GENETICALLY ENGINEERED TO SERVE AS A KILLING MACHINE BUT REBELLED AND ESCAPED TO EARTH. ALONG WITH TIMMY, HIS GENETIC HALF BROTHER, THE PAIR MUST STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE CREED WHILE TRYING TO FIND THEIR PLACE IN OUR WORLD.

JACKIE CROSSED PATHS WITH PITT AND TIMMY WHEN A MASS OF INFECTED, HUMAN BEINGS TURNED INTO ZOMBIE-LIKE BEINGS, BEGAN KILLING PEOPLE AROUND HIM. THEY WERE CREATED BY THE GILAD, AN ALIEN RACE, WHO WANTED TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THEY INFECTED A HUMAN BEING WITH AN ALIEN VIRUS.

THE BOYS ENDED UP SURROUNDED. WE JOIN THEM AS THE SHIT IS ABOUT TO HIT THE PROVERBIAL FAN...

written by: Paul Jenkins
pencils/inks by: Dale Keown
colors by: Felix Serrano
letters by: Troy Peteri

for this edition:

Cover A: Dale Keown

Cover B: Eric Basaldua, Rick Basaldua
and JD Smith

The Darkness/Pitt: ISSUE THREE November 2009 FIRST PRINTING. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of Publication: 2134 Abbot Way, Second Floor Berkeley CA 94704 \$2.99 US. THE DARKNESS © 2009 Top Cow Productions, Inc. "The Darkness," the Darkness boys, and the likeness of all featured characters are trademarks of Dale Keown. All rights reserved. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales without satirical intent is coincidental. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Top Cow Productions, Inc. Printed by World Color Press, Inc., St. Bonaventura, QC, Canada. 11/25/09 PRINTED IN CANADA.



Jackie Estacado's
Big List of Things
That Suck.

Number One: those
plastic strips on the
inside of CD covers.
I hate those fucking
things.

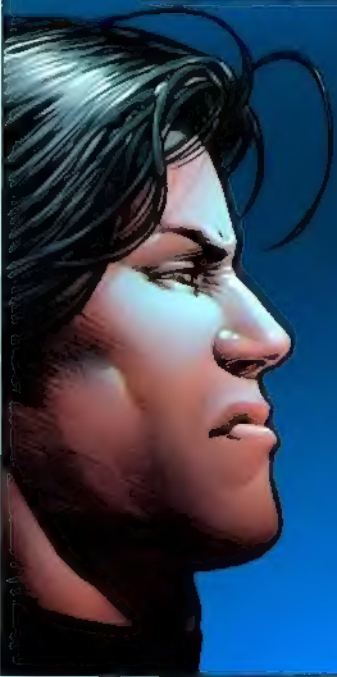
I mean are you selling me a Sinatra
album or am I trying to break into Fort
Frigging Knox, am I right?



Number Two:
Mean people.

Number Three:
Those who are
disrespectful to
me and my family.

Number Four:
Broccoli.



Number Five:
Circus midgets.

Number Six:
God.

Number Seven: French
People and Belgians, not
necessarily in that order.



And this.



This sucks.



WHAT ARE THEY WAITIN' FOR?

I DON'T KNOW. THEY SHOULD HAVE FINISHED US BY NOW.

MAYBE THEY DON'T LIKE THE WAY WE TASTE.



THEY'RE NOT GOING TO EAT US. THEY'RE GOING TO ASSIMILATE US INTO THE HIVE MIND.

OH, GENIUS.

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE FLIPPANT.

WHAT ARE YOU, THE ALIEN MISS MANNERS?



IT'S NOT FAIR...

...SHKKE...

...THEY DON'T MEAN ANY HARM. THEY JUST WANT US TO BE A PART OF THEM...



TIM? IS THIS YOUR DOING? ARE YOU HOLDING THEM BACK?

YEAH, BUT THEY KEEP PUSHING IN.

WELL, PUSH BACK.



I CAN'T I...

...IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL, WHAT THEY ARE.

EVERYONE'S SAFE IN ONE BIG MIND.

LISTEN, KID,
MAYBE IT'S ME
BUT THERE ARE
SOME THINGS
JACKIE-BOY DON'T
PLAN ON SHARING,
SO NOW MIGHT BE
A GOOD TIME TO
PUSH HARDER
THAN THEY
DO.

TRUST ME,
YOU'LL THANK
ME FOR IT
LATER.

I CAN'T...

I CAN'T...

I...

SPURCH

SQUITCH



C'MON...
THIS
WAY--

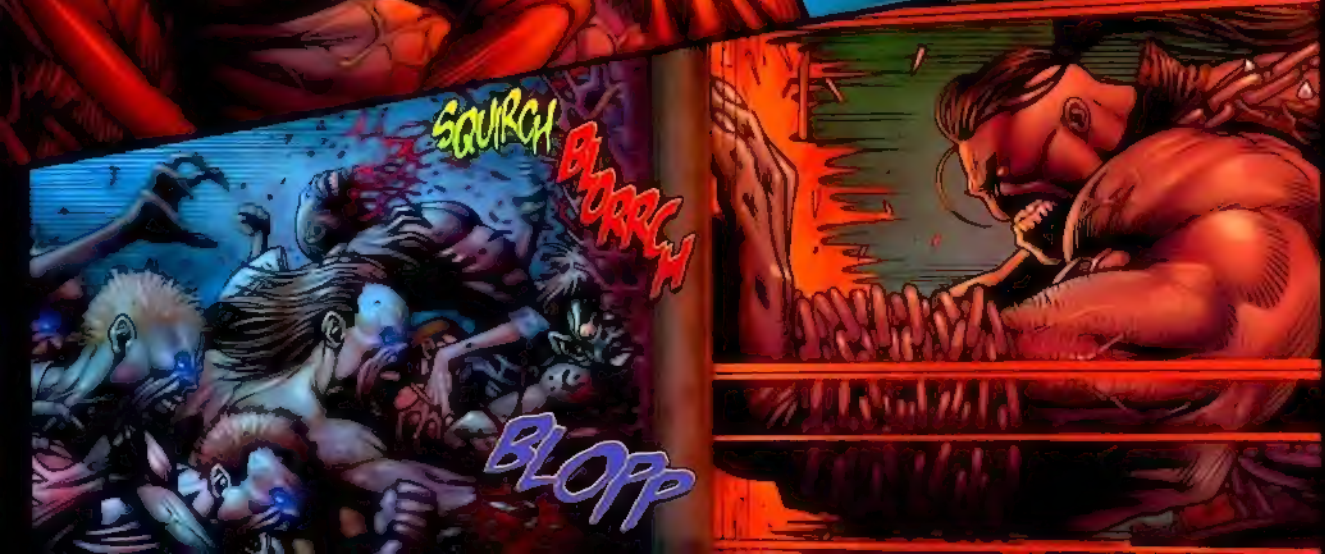
MOVE!
MOVE!



THROUGH
THERE BEFORE
THEY
RECOVER!
HURRY!



ההההה
ההההה
ההההה
ההההה



SQUURCH
BLOPP
BLOPP



OKAY...
THAT WAS
REVOLTING

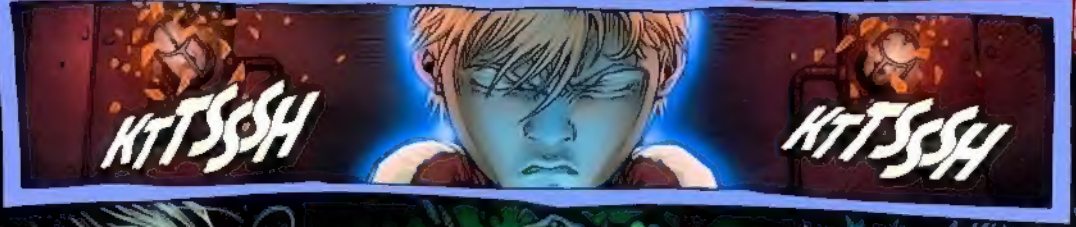


IF YOU'D LIKE
TO STOP SPOUTING
AND THINK OF A WAY
OUT OF HERE, THAT
WOULD BE
ACCEPTABLE--



TIM: I
NEED YOU TO
DOUSE ALL THE
LIGHTS. CAN YOU
DO THAT FOR
ME?

I...
I THINK
SO...



GOOD
BOY.

For the sake of balance, I also maintain a Big List of Things That Don't Suck.

Prominent on that list is my ability to turn the darkness around me into solid objects.

These demented little freaks are my own personal Army of Darkness.

They like long walks in the park and eviscerating people -- again, not necessarily in that order. Their favorite movie is Braveheart, and their favorite restaurant is Hooters.

They currently reside at number two on my list.

And number one, you may ask?

Telling this guy, "I TOLD you so."



THIS
WOULD
NEVER HAVE
HAPPENED IF
YOU HAD
BEEN MORE
PATIENT,
JACKIE--

WHAT...
THE ALIEN VIRUS
INFECTION FROM
ANOTHER GALAXY,
OR ME LISTENING TO
YOU BITCH ABOUT
PULLING YOUR ASS
OUTTA THE
FIRE?

A VIRUS
DOESN'T RESPOND
TO FORCE! YOU
CANNOT LAUNCH A
DIRECT PHYSICAL
ATTACK ON THE
INFECTED.

WELL
CALL ME CRAZY
BUT I THINK I
JUST DID.

IT
WON'T
WORK!



SO THAT
THING THAT
SEEMS TO BE
WORKING
"WON'T WORK?"
MAYBE YOU
CAN GIVE ME
ONE GOOD
REASON...



...UH-OH.



THEY'RE
BIOLUMINESCENT



TIM--
BE CAREFUL.

THEY'RE
GOING TO
KILL HIM.

AND YOU
TOO, IF I LET
THEM. I'M
SWORN TO
PROTECT--

I CAN
HELP! LET
ME GO!

SHIT

From the pages of

WITCHAMIDE

Dani Baptiste Takes Flight In Her Own Series

RON MARZ STEJAN SEJIC

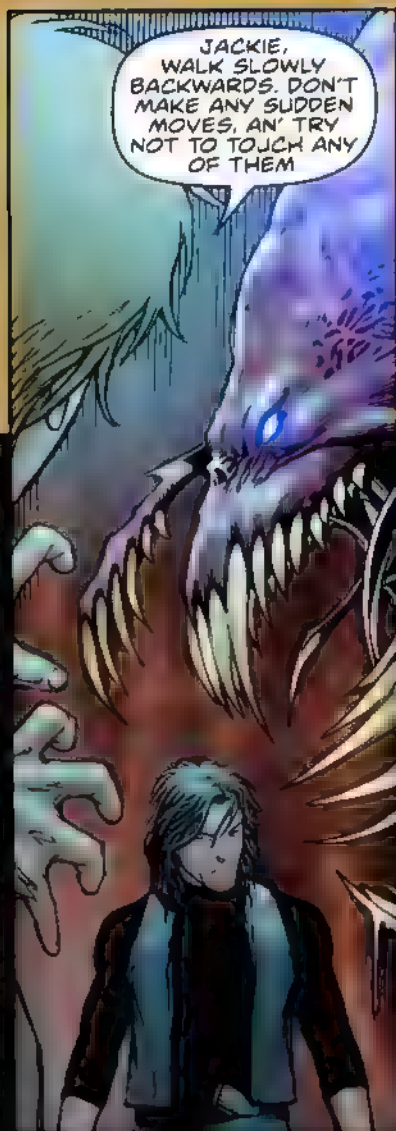
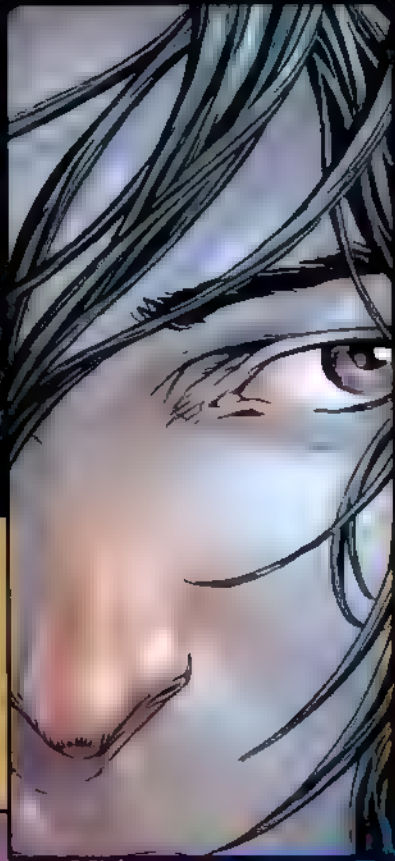
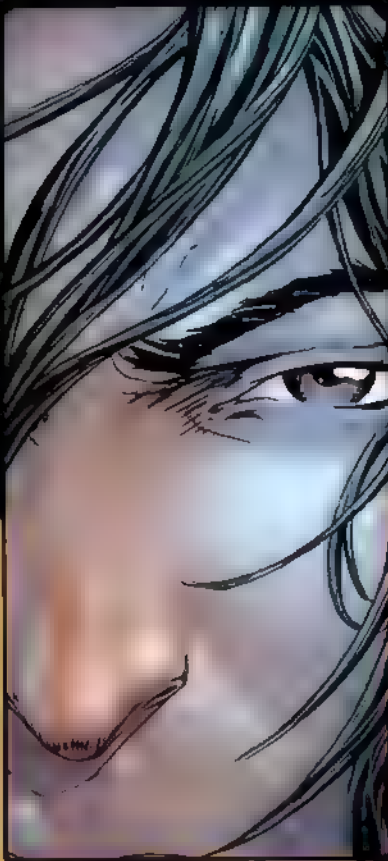
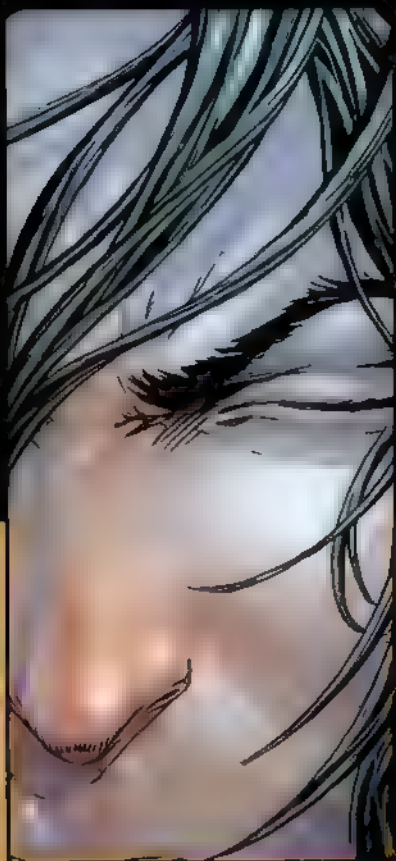
ANGELUS



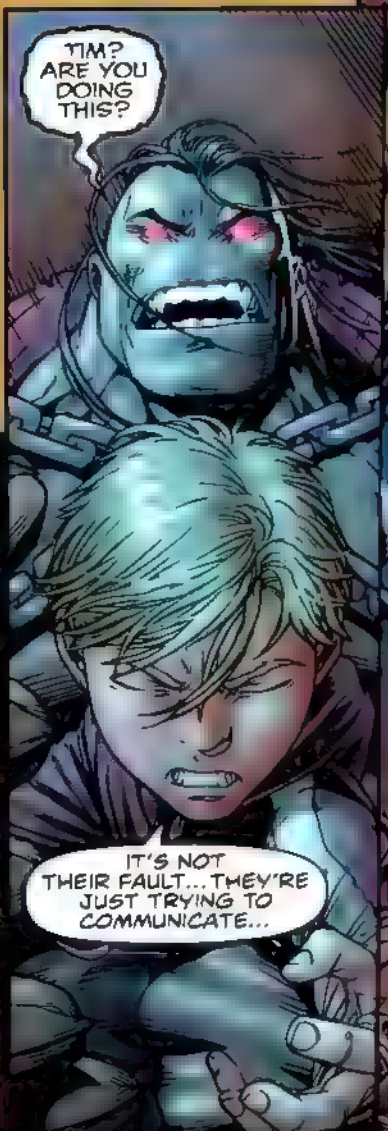
www.topcow.com

Art by Stjepan Sejic. Angelus™ and © Top Cow Productions, Inc. All rights reserved.

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline



JACKIE,
WALK SLOWLY
BACKWARDS. DON'T
MAKE ANY SUDDEN
MOVES, AN' TRY
NOT TO TOUCH ANY
OF THEM

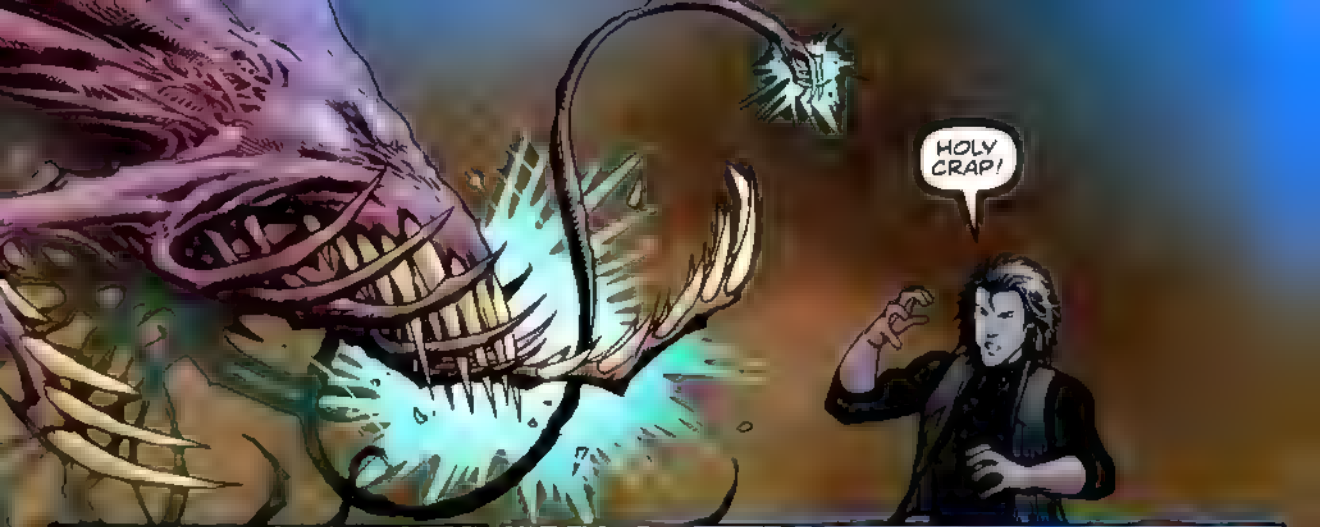


TIM?
ARE YOU
DOING
THIS?

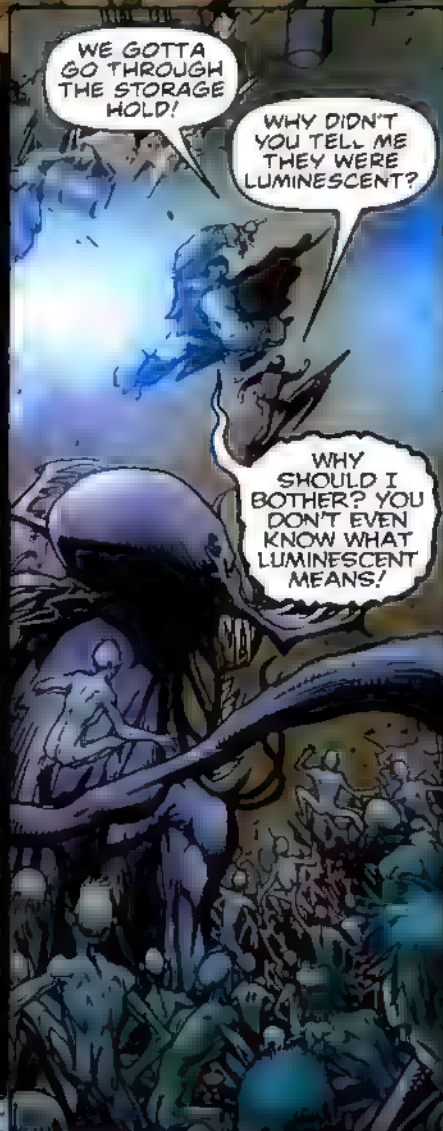
IT'S NOT
THEIR FAULT... THEY'RE
JUST TRYING TO
COMMUNICATE...



YEAH...
YOU THINK YOU
COULD ASK 'EM
TO COMMUNICATE
FROM A BIT
FURTHER AWAY?
LIKE MAYBE
MARS?



HOLY
CRAP!



WE GOTTA
GO THROUGH
THE STORAGE
HOLD!

WHY DIDN'T
YOU TELL ME
THEY WERE
LUMINESCENT?

WHY
SHOULD I
BOTHER? YOU
DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHAT
LUMINESCENT
MEANS!

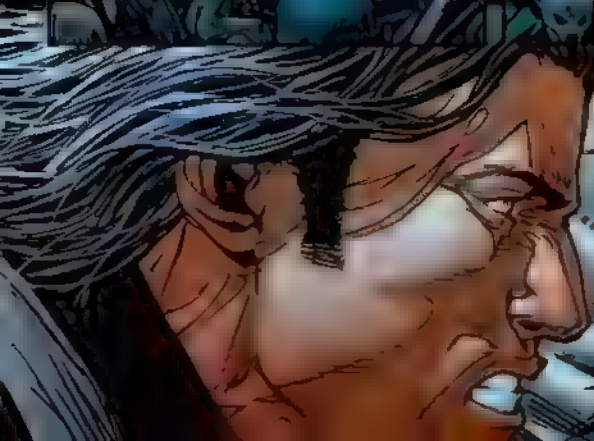


SURE
I DO IT
MEANS,
"YOU'RE A
DICK!"

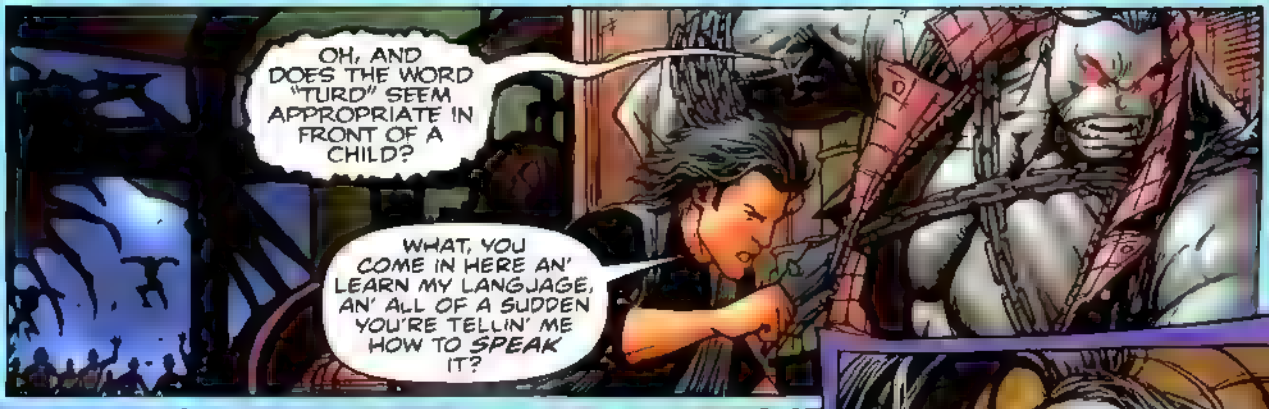
WHY
AM I NOT
SURPRISED
THAT YOU'VE
RESORTED TO
PUERILE
INSULTS?

WHY AM I NOT
SURPRISED YOU'RE
STILL USING ALL
THOSE BIG WORDS
AN' YOU HAVEN'T
ACTUALLY SAID A
DAMN THING?

LET'S SEE IF
YOU UNDERSTAND
THIS: YOU SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
INTERFERED.



TALK TO
ME LIKE THAT ONE
MORE TIME YOU
LIMP-DICKED ALIEN
TURD AN' YOU'LL BE
FIRST IN LINE FOR A
BULLET IN THE
NOSTRIL.



OH, AND DOES THE WORD "TURD" SEEM APPROPRIATE IN FRONT OF A CHILD?

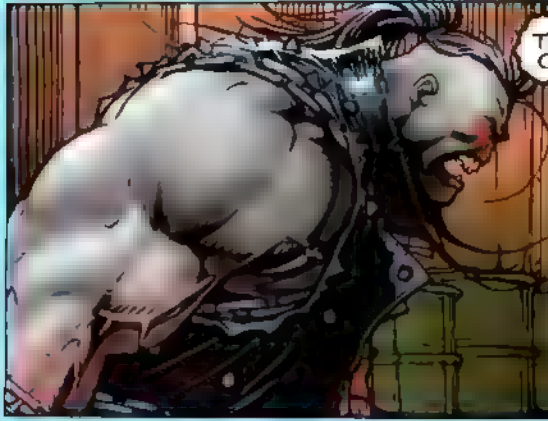
WHAT, YOU COME IN HERE AN' LEARN MY LANGUAGE, AN' ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU'RE TELLIN' ME HOW TO SPEAK IT?



YOU SEE, TIM? THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM A SMALL-TIME THUG WHOSE UNIVERSE EXTENDS ONLY AS FAR AS A BULLET



HEY! DON'T YOU BRING HIM INTO IT!



TIM IS MY CHARGE!

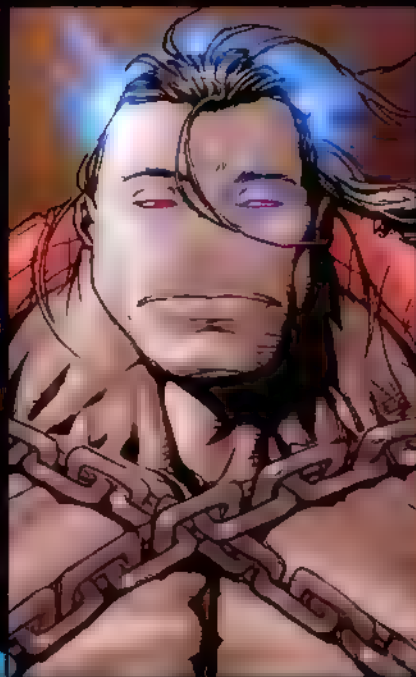
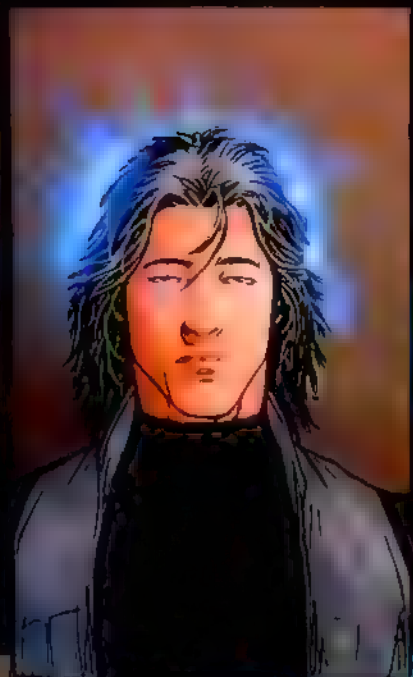
MAYBE HE NEEDS A NEW ONE!

MAYBE YOU NEED ONE! WHERE WAS YOURS WHEN YOU WERE HIS AGE?

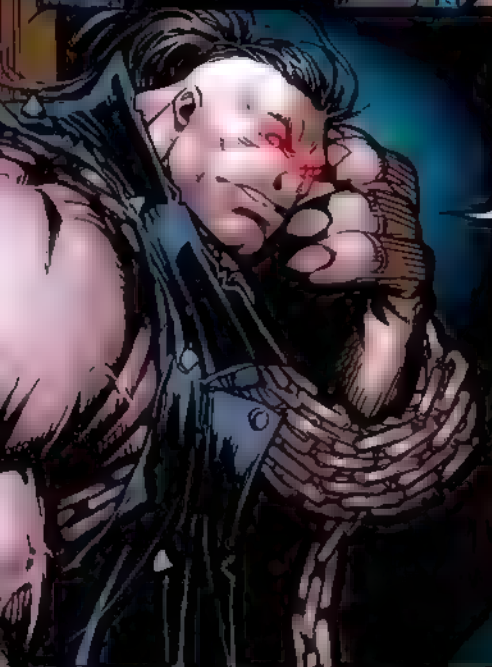
I SLIT HIS THROAT WITH A KITCHEN KNIFE!



STOP!

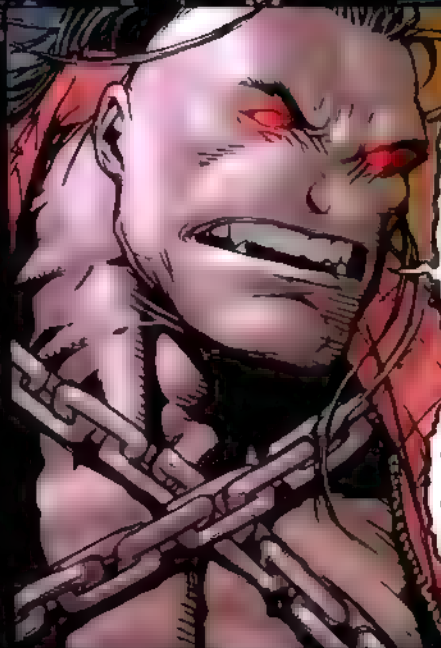


NO, I
MEAN, 'JUST
STOP'



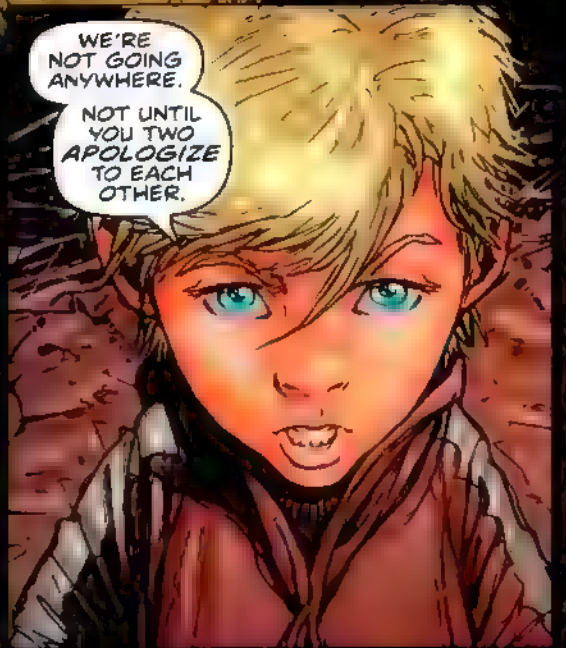
TIM? DID
YOU...

YOU USED
YOUR POWER
ON ME



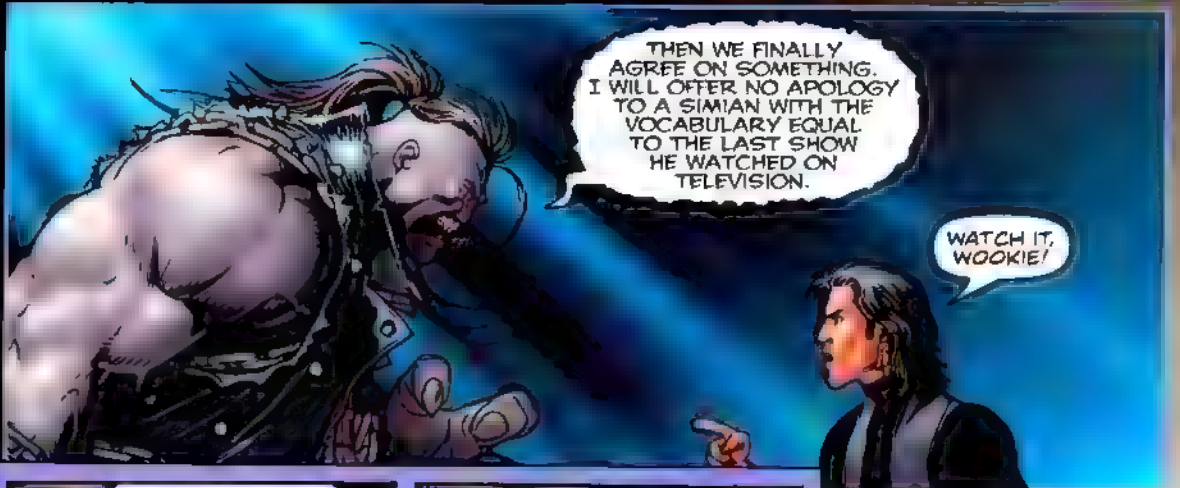
I
THOUGHT
I HAD MADE
MYSELF
CLEAR: YOUR
ONGOING
TRAINING
PROHIBITS
USE OF YOUR
ABILITIES
UNLESS
DIRECTLY
RELATED TO
A SPECIFIC
TASK AT
HAND.

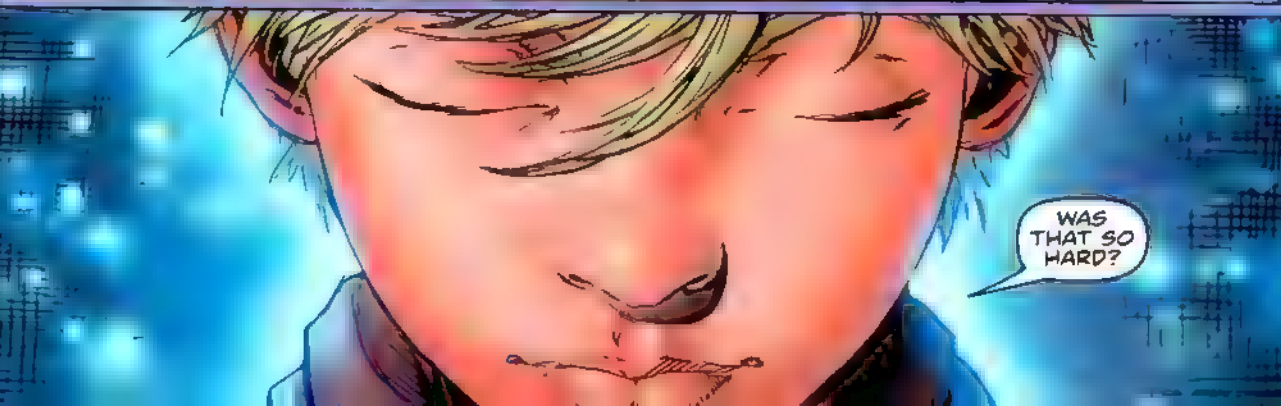
THIS
IS NOT
ACCEPTABLE.
WE'LL DISCUSS
THIS THE
MOMENT WE'RE
OUT OF
IMMEDIATE
DANGER.



WE'RE
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE.

NOT UNTIL
YOU TWO
APOLOGIZE
TO EACH
OTHER.







Witchblade

132 Issues and counting since 1995



1 Comic Software

Find All of Top Cow's "Witchblade" at:
www.ComicCollectorLive.com

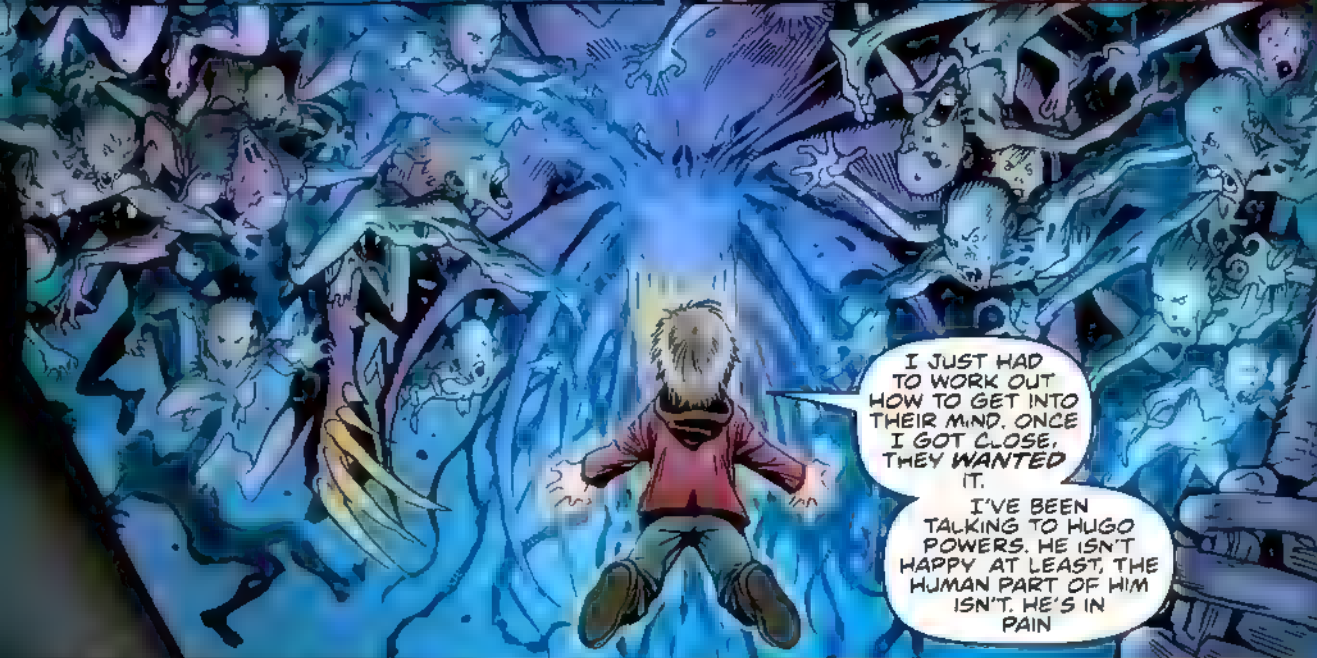
The World's Greatest Comic Book Website.





SO YOU
COULD HAVE
DONE THAT
ANYTIME YOU
WANTED?

PRETTY
MUCH.



I JUST HAD
TO WORK OUT
HOW TO GET INTO
THEIR MIND. ONCE
I GOT CLOSE,
THEY WANTED
IT.

I'VE BEEN
TALKING TO HUGO
POWERS. HE ISN'T
HAPPY AT LEAST, THE
HUMAN PART OF HIM
ISN'T. HE'S IN
PAIN

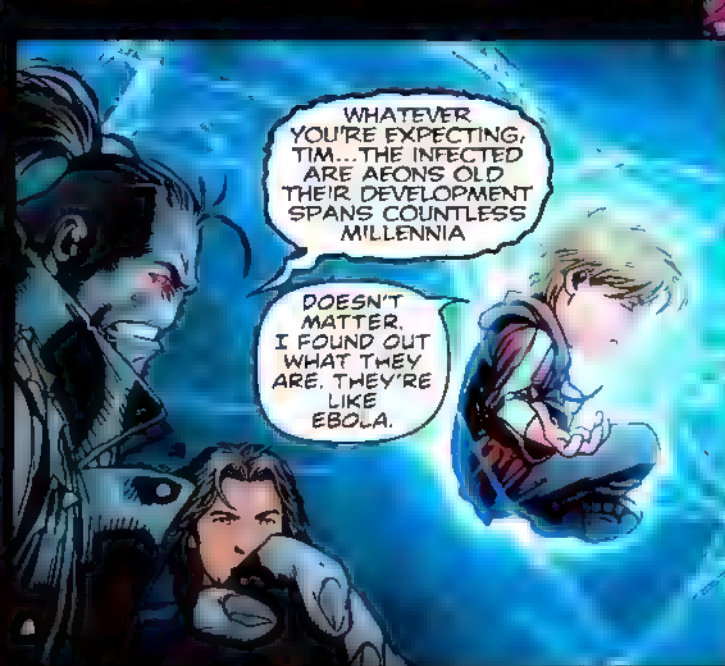


ANYTIME
YOU WANTED,
YOU LITTLE
PKER?

TIM..
ARE YOU
COMMUNICATING
WITH HIM
NOW?



YES
HE WANTS
TO DIE
I'M
GOING TO
HELP
HIM.



WHATEVER
YOU'RE EXPECTING,
TIM... THE INFECTED
ARE AEONS OLD
THEIR DEVELOPMENT
SPANS COUNTLESS
MILLENNIA

DOESN'T
MATTER.
I FOUND OUT
WHAT THEY
ARE. THEY'RE
LIKE
EBOLA.



WHAT'S AN
EBOLA?

IT'S NOT "AN EBOLA."
IT'S JUST EBOLA. IT'S
A VIRUS IN AFRICA.
WORST ONE EVER.
WE LEARNED
ABOUT IT AT
SCHOOL IT'S
SO BAD THAT IT
MAKES MONKEYS
BLEED OUT OF
THEIR BUTT.



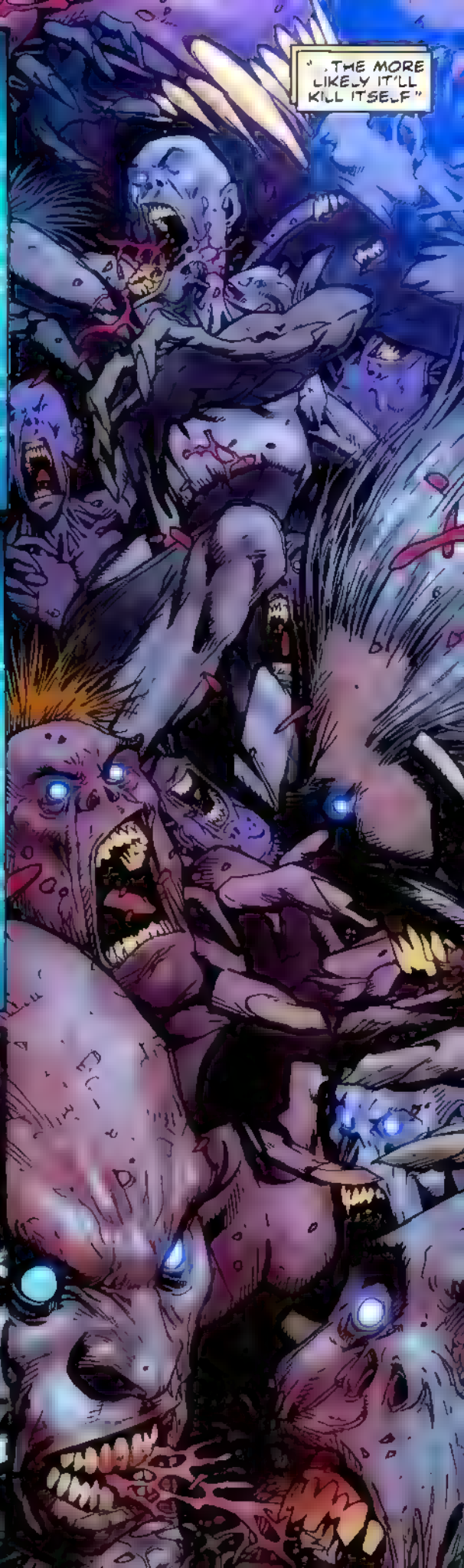
THE PROBLEM
WITH EBOLA IS
THAT IT'S TOO
POWERFUL...

...SMFFE...

...SO IT
CAN'T GET
TOO FAR FROM
THE JUNGLE
BECAUSE EVERY
TIME IT DOES,
IT KILLS
THINGS TOO
QUICKLY...

...SMFFE...

...SO IT
SEEMS TO ME
THE MORE
POWERFUL
THE VIRUS...



"...THE MORE
LIKELY IT'LL
KILL ITSELF"



WE NEED TO GO NOW. THIS IS GOING TO BE GROSS. WE NEED TO BE RESPECTFUL.



JESUS... YOU LET HIM KILL HIMSELF? WHAT ARE YOU, A NINE YEAR-OLD KEVORKIAN?

WHO'S KEVORKIAN?



A LOT LIKE YOU, ONLY OLDER.



KINGDOM OF PAIN

FEATURING

DARKCHYLDE

THE DARKNESS

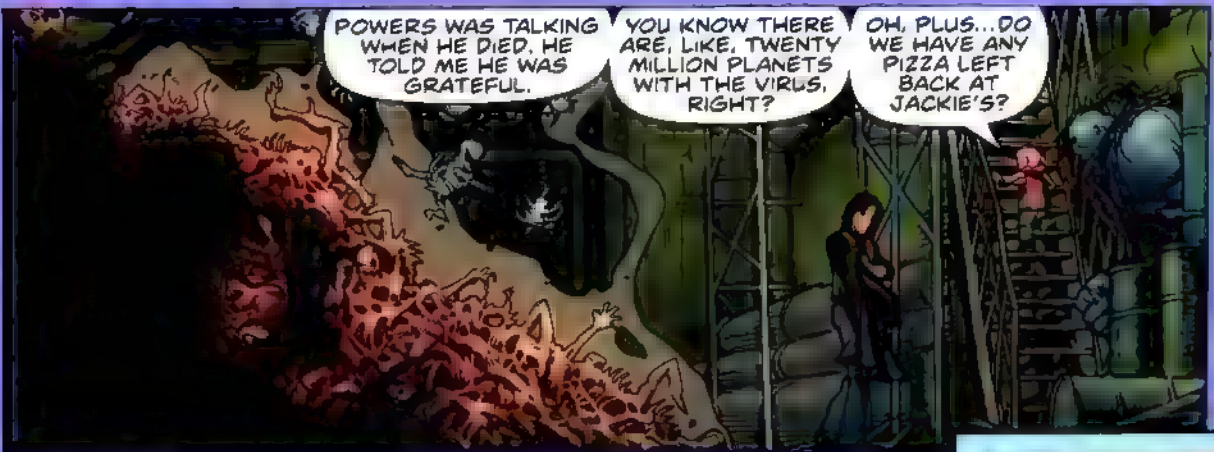
30 BIG PAGES OF
BEAUTY & HORROR
FROM
RANDY & SARAH QUEEN



IN STORES IN DECEMBER 2009

www.topcow.com • www.darkchylde.com

"The Darkness," The Darkness logo and the likeness of all featured characters are registered trademarks of Top Cow Productions, Inc. All rights reserved.
Darkchylde TM and © 2009 Randy Queen. "Darkchylde," Darkchylde logo and the likeness of all featured characters are trademarks of Randy Queen. All rights reserved.



POWERS WAS TALKING
WHEN HE DIED, HE
TOLD ME HE WAS
GRATEFUL.

YOU KNOW THERE
ARE, LIKE, TWENTY
MILLION PLANETS
WITH THE VIRUS,
RIGHT?

OH, PLUS...DO
WE HAVE ANY
PIZZA LEFT
BACK AT
JACKIE'S?



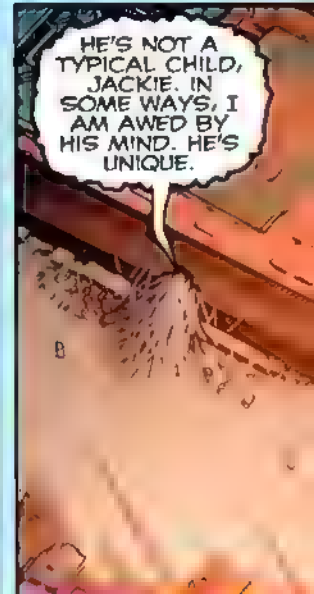
DOES HE ACT
LIKE THIS A
LOT?

THIS IS A LITTLE
DIFFERENT, EVEN
FOR TIM. HE'S
GROWING.

HE'S NINE,
FOR CHRISSAKES!
IF I'D HAVE TALKED
LIKE THAT TO MY UNCLE
FRANKIE I WOULD'A
LOST BOTH OF MY
THUMBS!

YOUR
UNCLE FRANKIE
COULDN'T
PERSUADE
PEOPLE TO KILL
THEMSELVES
WITH A SINGLE
THOUGHT.

YOU DIDN'T
KNOW MY UNCLE
FRANKIE.



HE'S NOT A
TYPICAL CHILD,
JACKIE. IN
SOME WAYS, I
AM AWED BY
HIS MIND. HE'S
UNIQUE.



IN OTHER
WAYS, I WILL
ADMIT, I'M
TERRIFIED BY
HIM.



KIDS
OF TODAY,
MAN.
NO
RESPECT.

FBI HEADQUARTERS:
LANGLY, VIRGINIA.

"...WHEN WE GOT
THERE, ONE CADAVER
WAS INDISTINGUISHABLE
FROM THE OTHER."

ANY
MEASURABLE
RESULTS ON THE
VICTIMS?

SOME UNUSUAL
TOXICOLOGY REPORTS,
SIR. DNA IDENTIFICATION
TECHNIQUES WERE
INAPPLICABLE IN SOME
CASES. WE COULDN'T
TELL WHY.

I'M AFRAID
THE LAB
ACCIDENTALLY
DESTROYED SOME
OF THE FURTHER
SAMPLES BEFORE
WE COULD CROSS-
REFERENCE.

ALL WE'VE GOT ARE
CRIME SCENE PHOTOS...SOME
SCREWY TEST RESULTS AND A FEW
MISSING AGENTS. NO ONE'S EVER
SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BUT
THAT'S HARDLY EV DENCE
OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL
LIFE FORMS.

WE DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO GO
ON.

I KNOW YOU WERE
CLOSE, AGENT.
BUT I CAN'T GO
FURTHER UNTIL
YOU BRING ME
PROOF.

BRING
ME EVIDENCE
OF EXTRA-
TERRESTRIAL
PRESENCE AND
I'LL FULLY
SUPPORT YOUR
REPORT.
NAYSAYERS BE
DAMNED.

WORLD
Great
Day



THE
EVIDENCE IS
OUT THERE,
DIRECTOR.

I'LL
BRING YOU
THE PROOF
YOU NEED...I
PROMISE.

BRZZZZTTT

NO YOU
WON'T.

END



PITT: FROM YOUNGBLOOD TO FULL BLEED

Dale Keown's wildly popular and dedicated cult-following sensation, *Pitt*, has not gone steroids-crazy. He has not gone in for some cosmetic enhancements. Nor has he been angling for guest appearances. In fact, Pitt has not been published in a comic book within the last ten years – a testament to Image Comics' sheer success in the founding members' core initiative to promote the value of creator rights. A foreign concept that they ran with where creators had complete ownership of their characters and their characters' destinies. And I mean that in the best way possible.

At any other publisher, *Pitt* would have long since been snatched from Dale's hands to be over-processed, over-hyped and over-marketed milking the character for everything he is worth. The fact that Dale Keown, despite his busy schedule with other comic book projects, does not want Pitt to be published is a feat in its own right. His character living on without him would mean watered-down artwork rendered by a hand any less meticulous than his own.

After you kick back and immerse yourself in this latest offering of 100% Dale Keown-awesomeness, check out the following classics of independent comic book publishing and discover (or rediscover) the roots of Pitt's publishing history.

Making his comic debut in a feature that appeared in *Youngblood* #4 (1993), the motorcycling, half-Creed from outer space quickly segued into his own series with *Pitt* #1 that same year. Reprints of *Youngblood* #4 were rebranded as *Pitt* #1/2 to commemorate this first appearance. By the time that Pitt and his half-brother Timmy discovered their familial ties in *Pitt* #10, Keown had begun publishing the comic under his own imprint, **Full Bleed Studios**, and continuing to do so until issue #20.

During which, Pitt has made many regular appearances within the pages of other Image Comics. He has been matched against those in *Gen 13*, *The Maxx*, *Supreme*, and more recently, *Invincible* #60, as a player within "The Invincible War." Most notably, a face-off between Pitt and Marvel Comic's *The Hulk* in 1997 ended in a stalemate.

For something of more interest to the Top Cow herd, check out issue #3 of the very first volume of *Cyberforce* (1993). Yeah, back then, even Pitt had to crash on one of his buddies' couch just like we all have done after a long night of partying.

Bryan Rountree

Assistant to the Publisher Guy

For more of Jackie's adventures check out the latest issue of The Darkness available now!



TOP COW WORLD MOOS

news • interviews • exclusives



STORE SPOTLIGHT



Comic Oasis

Re-established in 2005 as a mash up of comics, graphic novels, toys, urban vinyl, art, clothing, music, movies, and even furniture, Comic Oasis is the refuge in Las Vegas for fans of pop culture. Every corner, counter, and wall is utilized to spotlight writers, artists, designers and their works. Comic Oasis was nominated for an Eisner "Spirit of Retailing" award in 2009 and voted Best of Las Vegas in 2009.

The staff of Comic Oasis is always looking for ways to bring comics to the masses. The store has hosted unique events such as Stan Lee at the Playboy Club, a drink up with Mark Millar and Tony Harris, and Wolverine weekend at the Patti Casino with John Romita Sr and Jr with all proceeds to benefit the Las Vegas Boys and Girls Club. The always helpful and outgoing staff worked with the Library District to start the Las Vegas Valley Comic Book Festival.

Comic Oasis is located at 3121 N Rainbow Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89108. They can be reached at (702) 212-8885 or on the web at www.comicoasis.com.



THIS MONTH ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Top Cow loves the Internet! Want to read The Darkness/Pitt #1 for FREE? Check out comixology.com or download it on your iPhone through the Comics by comixology app! And have you seen all of the other free previews and full comics available on www.topcow.com? Or that we tweet all sorts of top-secret info to our followers on twitter.com/topcow?

THIS MONTH'S TOP COW



Pilot Season: Murderer #1

(W) Robert Kirkman (A) Nelson Blake II
(Cov) Marc Silvestri

From the creative minds of Image partners Robert Kirkman & Marc Silvestri

Jason Sparks is cursed. His every waking moment is bombarded with the thoughts of those around him. Every dirty little secret, every hidden desire, screamed at him in a cacophony of voices in his head. The only way to silence these voices, the only thing that brings him a moment of peace... is murder. But he's trying to use his powers for good.

Full Color 32 pages

\$2.99 pilot issue

11.09
IN STORES

WITCHBLADE #132 · TRACKER #1 · BERSERKER #3
CYBERFORCE/HUNTER-KILLER #3
THE DARKNESS #81 · WANTED TP (NEW PRINTING)

FROM THE MOOS DESK



Time to be Thankful!

November is the month for Thanksgiving here in the States and we just wanted to take a moment and thank you – the fans. Without the members of our faithful Herd, we wouldn't be able to do what we love, which is to tell great stories through exciting art. You allow those of us here at Top Cow World HQ to live our dreams of making comic books for a living. We're pretty darn lucky that way, so thanks!

We'll do our best to make 2010 and even more jam-packed, pulse-pounding year than 2009. We'll be bringing back some classic Top Cow characters, introducing a mess of new ones, and tackling our most ambitious event series yet!

-moos

everything you need to join the herd and more

updates • profiles • exclusives • desktops • moos www.topcow.com

Marc Silvestri CEO Matt Hawkins President/COO Filip Sablik Publisher
Phil Smith Managing Editor Christine Dinh Marketing Assistant Adrian Nicita Webmaster
Bryan Rountree Assistant to the Publisher Ryan Anderson, Dustin Garcia Interns
Rob Levin Consulting Editor For Image Comics: Eric Stephenson Publisher

NOISE from the HERD a word with JONATHAN LINCOLN

Writer (Tracker)

The boys at Top Cow asked me to share a few words about *Tracker*, my new series coming out this month! *Tracker* is about an FBI tracker named Alex O'Roark whose perfect life is ripped to shreds when a case leads him into straight the maw of a werewolf. Now infected with the werewolf virus himself, Alex must hunt down the monster that attacked him before the disease destroys his life.

But, I should warn you that *Tracker* isn't your typical werewolf story. There are no silver bullets, full moons, or mysterious gypsies. Even the look of werewolves represents a serious departure from stories past (no more dudes running around in gorilla suits!). All of that campy stuff has been cleared away to create a more grounded world—one that focuses on the true essence of the werewolf mythology.

And what is that essence, you ask?

Werewolves are about the battle every person wages against their darker side. What happens when we can no longer keep those savage, bloodthirsty impulses at bay? People cursed with the disease represent the perfect moral paradox because they are both victims and monsters. Unlike zombies and vampires, werewolves retain their humanity. They wake up the next morning to witness the horrible things they've done—and they have to live with that guilt.

With books like *Wanted* and *Impaler*, Top Cow has made a tradition of kicking tradition to the curb, transforming the familiar into something radically new. This is exactly what we've tried to do with *Tracker*. If my rant isn't enough to convince you, I dare you to pick up the first issue and check out Francis Tsai's breathtaking art—I promise you'll never look at werewolves the same again.

-Jonathan



No two cows have exactly the same pattern of spots. Except LA Top Cows who show up to the office in matching t-shirts daily.

Craving more from the Cow?

www.topcow.com

More destinations for everything the Top Cow Universe has to offer

A DIFFERENT BREED



Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline



THE END BEGINS. JULY 2010.



www.topcow.com

Artifacts™ and © Top Cow Productions, Inc. All rights reserved.

IRON FIST®

MADE WITH LOVE FOR A HEARTLESS WORLD



WITCHBLADE®

THE DARKNESS®



EXCLUSIVE LICENSED APPAREL AND FOOTWEAR COLLECTION

WWW.IRONFISTROCKS.COM